

State Having Trouble With Constitution Revision

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — Defeat of Proposition 1 at the November, 1968 general election, has generated quite a bit of static around the legislature as to the advisability of continuing the activities of the constitution revision commission. In fact, there is one resolution before the state senate asking its abolition.

However, the assembly committee on elections and constitutional amendments, does

not feel junking the committee is the answer.

A comprehensive report by the committee, which is headed by Assemblyman Paul Priolo, R-Santa Monica, one of the assembly's upcoming legislators, holds that the defeat of Prop. 1A does not reflect a general interest among Californians in the termination of the revision project among the state's citizen, or the termination of the revision commission.

The commission, it will be remembered, was created many

years ago, and charged with the job of revising and remodeling California's antiquated and outdated fundamental basis of law.

It was successful in passing the first phase of revision, which resulted in annual legislatures, shortening up the wording of the document, and generally, improving the document.

Defeat of the second phase last November was related largely to the proposition that the revisions would have eliminated the direct election by the

people for the office of state superintendent of public schools.

Priolo's committee, in scanning the defeated provisions, felt they should be re-examined to determine whether any or all of the proposals should be re-submitted to the people in 1970.

"Many thousands of man hours," Priolo said, "have been contributed to this important project by members of the legislature and the commission.

"The culmination of these efforts represents a vast ex-

penditure of time, talent, and funds that can ill-afford to be wasted by the legislature, or the people.

"In the special report, members of the interim committee have cited the need for continuing the revision project and have commended the members of the revision commission for their dedication and valuable advice."

The commission, not stung too badly by the defeat of Phase II, is already at work on Phase III,

which was to have been ready for submission in 1970. This was to have been the final phase in remodeling the constitution had the voters approved Phase II.

Priolo's committee suggests that the second phase be taken over by the legislature itself, and revise the provisions with the idea of eliminating the non-controversial matters and re-submit the proposals to the people.

However, should this be done, Priolo will not rush into it in a

haphazard manner, would hold hearings throughout the state to take testimony on both the second phase of revisions, and also on the proposed third phase, which is scheduled to be coming up at the 1970 general election.

In addition, Priolo seeks to look into the possibility of submitting substantive changes, which engendered the controversy in the first place, in separate amendments, rather than in a whole package, as were the first and second phases.

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Comment and Opinion

A-4 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1969

A Real Deception

Gov. Ronald Reagan's \$6.2 billion state budget and his proposals for a 10 per cent or more return of the surplus to the taxpayers has brought the typical remarks from his perpetual foe, Jesse M. Unruh, democratic assemblyman from Inglewood.

Unruh called the governor's proposed return "a fraud on the taxpayers of California and a calculated effort to deceive the people of the state."

He says he will hold up passage of the budget until the governor gets more definite in details of the return to the taxpayers.

One of Unruh's own bills, Proposition 1A, which was approved by voters as a tax relief plan, has turned out to be a masterpiece in "deception."

In fact, it has so confused the people—and governmental officials—that a special meeting of the assembly committee on revenue and taxation was held last week to determine who — if anyone — qualifies for the \$70 rebate.

The committee also looked into such matters as administrative costs and timing, certification of claims, exclusion of welfare recipients, and tax delinquent's qualifications.

We wonder why Unruh didn't hold up last November's general election until his own bill was "a little more definitive."

Other Opinions

Demonstrations for this or that cause are becoming a way of life on the campuses of our colleges, and our young people are being taught a new premise: "If you don't get what you want, raise hell and trample on the rights and property of others until you do."
—Granite Falls (Minn.) Tribune.

If talk is cheap, they haven't heard of it in Washington. From Jan. 15 through July 31 of the last session of Congress, a total of 25,098 pages of proceedings and "extensions of remarks" were printed in the Congressional Record. At \$113 a page, this monument to political bafflebag cost the taxpayers about \$2.84 million. A lot of it was devoted to speeches lamenting excessive government spending.—Columbia (Tenn.) Herald.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Pets and Their People; A Study in 'Pet Power'

Petishism is a pretty good word. It was coined by Kathleen Szasz, a Hungarian-born writer and translator who lives in London, to describe the cult of pet animals and the multi-billion dollar industries which have grown around it in recent years not only in the United States (for a change), but also in England, Germany, France, and Italy.

In a surprisingly scholarly treatise, "Petishism: Pets and Their People in the Western World," she sees the "anthropomorphizing" of pets—giving human characteristics to them—a symptom of man's inability to relate to his fellow men. She investigates the psychology of petishism; pets as pacification in an age of anxiety; pets as "emotional surrogates," and pets simply as substitutes for children in many cases.

The author conducted her research in both Europe and the United States. She notes that Americans spend \$5 billion to \$6 billion a year on pets, although to keep a dog in style is considerably more expensive in West Germany than in England or the U.S. In France, she tells us, the sale of pet foods increased by 300 per-

cent between 1963 and 1966, thanks to the efforts of American pet food manufacturers. She quotes an American veterinarian to the effect that 90 per-

Browsing Through the World of Books

cent of American dogs enjoy better medical care than half the people in the world.

She looks at "pet power" and the absurdity of products manufactured, promoted and bought by people who fail to enjoy animals in their natural state and who have corrupted them into "consumers." As a result we have pet greeting cards, cookbooks for cats, horoscopes, articles of clothing (including furs), beauty parlors, deodorants (including a spray deodorant), false eyelashes for poodles, hair-coloring that will give an aging graying dog a youthful look and, among other things for pets, insurance plans and stylish cemeteries.

The author apparently has tried to do for the dog and cat industry what Jessica Mitford did for the undertaking game not long ago in "The American Way of Death." Her book is more akin to the pop sociology

ROYCE BRIER

Some Space Age Theories Feed on Larcenous Ideas

It may be space is a little like the laughing gas of the dentist, except you don't have to breathe it to get flakey, you only have to think about it.

That is, some of the folk in the space movement tend to flights of fancy, and perhaps this has been enhanced by the recent success of Apollo 8.

Anyway, there's a fellow we won't name, says the moon isn't worth the trouble, and we

ought to go out to Mars again, a manned trip in a few years. Many space theorists think our fly-by a couple of years ago didn't prove anything. They point out the strip of Martian crust we photographed was infinitesimal. It looked like the moon, but so would a strip of

Opinions on Affairs of the World

the Sahara Desert from 20,000 miles.

Our spaceman doesn't mention Martians, but he is fascinated by the two Martian moons, and indeed they are fascinating. They were discovered in 1877, and are tiny and close to the Martian surface. A few years ago some joker thought they might be artificial satellites left over from an ancient Martian civilization.

But our spaceman thinks they may be fashioned of primeval stuff, and that we could learn a lot by trying up to one.

His best idea is that we might tow one back, presumably the smaller one, and check it at leisure. This would be Deimos, which has a diameter of about 5 miles and whizzes about the planet at an altitude of 12,000 miles. The larger, Phobos, may be a 10-miler, and has an altitude of 3,700 miles.

If the Apollo people think they have a delicate moon task ahead, they might try a Deimos tow-job. If it's granite of iron it would weigh 10-20 billion tons. These moons are probably not spheres, but sort of flying mountains. Everest-scale.

It might seem a touch immoral to rove around the solar system filching satellites, but as we advanced people started centuries ago stealing earth patches from aborigines, we could doubtless justify ourselves.

So why stop with Deimos? If we can capture 15 billion tons from orbit, we can capture the

60 billion tons of Phobos. But we would have to be cautious. If there was a slip-up, 60 billion tons falling on a continent would be damned unpleasant, and plopping in an ocean could wreck the world's ports with tidal waves.

Fortunately, most of the 30 moons we count are a little large for towing. Jupiter's biggest, Ganymede, is bigger than the planet Mercury. How would you like that in your swimming pool?

But don't sell space theorists short. It occurs to this theorist, that if we can snatch Martian moons we might try for Saturn's rings. They may look imposing in a telescope, but they're not so much. Astronomers now believe they are only 10 miles thick, though unwieldy in diameter.

They would, however, make a real pretty sight, great golden arches in firmament. Besides, there's nobody, positively nobody, on the ammonia-methan Saturn crust to appreciate them, or to stay our larcenous instincts. The idea is, if you see something that sparkles, grab it.

Morning Report

Lyndon Johnson's heart and health may be in Texas but apparently his voice is going to be heard around the land for some time to come. Just a few weeks out of the White House, he appeared in the last issue of the Readers Digest and has a book upcoming.

It is only fair to warn him that once he sees his stuff in print, he will not be able to stop. Especially at the prices he is getting. Returns from the book are said to be \$1,500,000.

For a while, it's going to be easy to get his material. All Mr. Johnson has to do is write about all the things he avoided at press conferences. But once that deep well runs dry, he's on his own. I fear readers who are happy to gobble up what the President did will be less enthusiastic over the musings of a cattle rancher.

Abe Mellinkoff

I Might Get You a Chair in Economics —

HERB CAEN SAYS:

View of Alcatraz Fades As Post Card Attraction

Views of Fisherman's Wharf and Alcatraz used to constitute the most popular S.F. postcards, but no longer. H. S. Crocker, which printed 3¼ million postcards last year, with 32 different views, reports a new winner, with 278,000 sales: "The Crookedest Street in the World" (the Lombard St. curvy). The Wharf and the Rock aren't even in the first five any longer.

Wigwag: Is our munificent Government now supplying hair-pieces for balding employees? And if he isn't a good boy, is the toupee snatched away? I must say these were the unworthy thoughts that crossed my mind when a local U.S. official showed me a Govt. form which, in his case, read as follows: "The above employee will be eligible for a wig on 03-09-69. If conditions exist which may result in the wig being withheld, he must be informed orally or in writing no later than 60 days before the above date." This turns out to be another milestone on the road to Upper Bureaucratise: "wig" in this case stands for "with-in-grade" increase in pay. Wiggy.

Bay City beat: Hilly Rose had discovered what could be the best 6 cent bargain in the State. For the price of a stamp, he just became the 13,254th ordained minister of the Universal Life Church, Inc. This could get him half-fare on certain airlines and railroads, a tax advantage and even "special consideration" if he's drafted. (When a member of the Atty. General's staff was

queried about this gimmick, he just groaned).

Hello: John Sinclair, a local banker, was busy at his desk the other afternoon when a uniformed driver walked up to him with "Say, I seem to have locked myself out of my truck—do you have a coat hanger I could borrow?" John did indeed, and a few moments later

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

the driver reappeared to return it, to say "Thanks," and drive off in his truck — a Brink's armored car!

Inside out: The Italian movie company that's in town, filming something called "Perverst Story" or "Strange Ending" (depending on how you translate it), is running into heavy union problems. Although the director is American—John Ireland—the rest of the crew is Italian, so the local movie technicians are picketing the proceedings. "And if they don't hire any of our people," vows a union boss, "we'll picket the Italian Consulate next. American companies in Italy hire plenty of Italians. Besides that, this movie puts the knock on San Francisco." Basta, basta!

Dot-dot-dot: Heavy cloak 'n' dagger activity over in Sausalito, where a former FBI agent (now living there) has mysteriously acquired a film of the JFK assassination that contains, he claims, the hitherto "secret" frames in the historic Zapruder home movie of the tragedy. One TV network is

checking the film for authenticity.

My stars: Harry Plate, the well-known publicist, breakfasted at Sam's in Tiburon earlier this week, opened his paper to the horoscope and was well pleased to read: "All signs favorable for both social and financial pursuits." By day's end, his car had expired to the tune of a \$300 engine job, he had received a rejection slip from The New Yorker on a piece they'd held for two months, and his wife of 13 years had informed him she was filing for divorce. Harry back at the bar: "Could have been worse. Suppose my signs had been unfavorable?"

Ad infinitum: Lewis Bennett, who was Steve McQueen's stand-in during the "Bullitt" filming here, went to the blood bank at S.F. General Hospital, where the girl at the counter asked as she filled out the form: "Occupation?" Lewis: "Actor." She wrote down "None," but he gave a pint anyway... Now playing to favorable reviews on Canadian college campuses: "The Feast," by S. F. Playwright Michael McClure. He wrote it before "The Beard," but despite its title, it's not at all masticatory... Comment from a Salinas official on a proposal that the city library there be renamed the John Steinbeck Library: "So much red tape involved. Heck, by the time we got around to changing the name, people will probably have forgotten about Steinbeck." I'd print the official's name but I can't remember it.

SACRAMENTO REPORT

State Ponders Tougher Laws in Swindle Field

By RALPH DILLS
Senator, 32nd District

If recommendations by the state attorney general's office are followed California citizens will gain a good measure of added protection from swindlers during this legislative session.

Anyone who has unknowingly been bilked by a fast-talking salesman or a "give you a good deal" operator would agree that the state's statutes on consumer protection would leave something to be desired. Certainly, recent news headlines on collection agency swindles have only served as a pointed reminder to lawmakers and the public.

The attorney general's office has proposed a 12-point legislative program to bring a halt to some of the more unscrupulous shysters. It is designed to protect the public from the fast-talking door-to-door salesman, the unethical auto repair shop, the poverty area fraud and various time-payment contract abuses which plague California's citizens.

These proposals are aimed at swindles which injure low income and low-middle income families.

Among the advocated changes is repeal of a measure approved by the legislature and signed into law last year. The statute was designed to permit automobile dealers to set back mileage indicators on new cars which may have been driven to their point of sale.

In looking over the proposals we find greatly increased consumer protection for many of the more common fleecing techniques, including a three-day "cooling-off period" for door-to-door sales during which a customer could act on second thoughts and cancel a sometimes hastily-made sales contract.

The legislation may include such recommendations as a new state agency which would register automobile repair shops and thus seek to prevent the fraud uncovered in that area.

And there would be a prohibition of wage attachments before a court judgement, and a requirement that firms advertising that they conduct business in Spanish must provide

Spanish-language contracts. Under the proposal there would be a limit of one penalty for each late payment on time contracts in order to prevent the all-too-common demands for several penalties on a single late payment.

A provision for inclusion of automobile leases under the controls of the Rees-Levering Act which governs terms and conditions of automobile purchase contracts is included in the proposals.

In addition, the attorney general's office calls for extension of the Retail Installment Sales Act to contracts requiring four or more payments even if they do not carry a service charge, and a requirement that copies of contracts covered by the Act be supplied to the customers when they are signed.

Perhaps most important among the proposals is a provision for exemplary damages in law suits based on unfair business practices.

California has traditionally led the nation in consumer protection. We in the legislature believe that these proposals, if adopted, will continue California leadership.

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